

## 2003 Aquatic Reserve

### Technical Advisory Committee Recommendation

#### **Cherry Point**

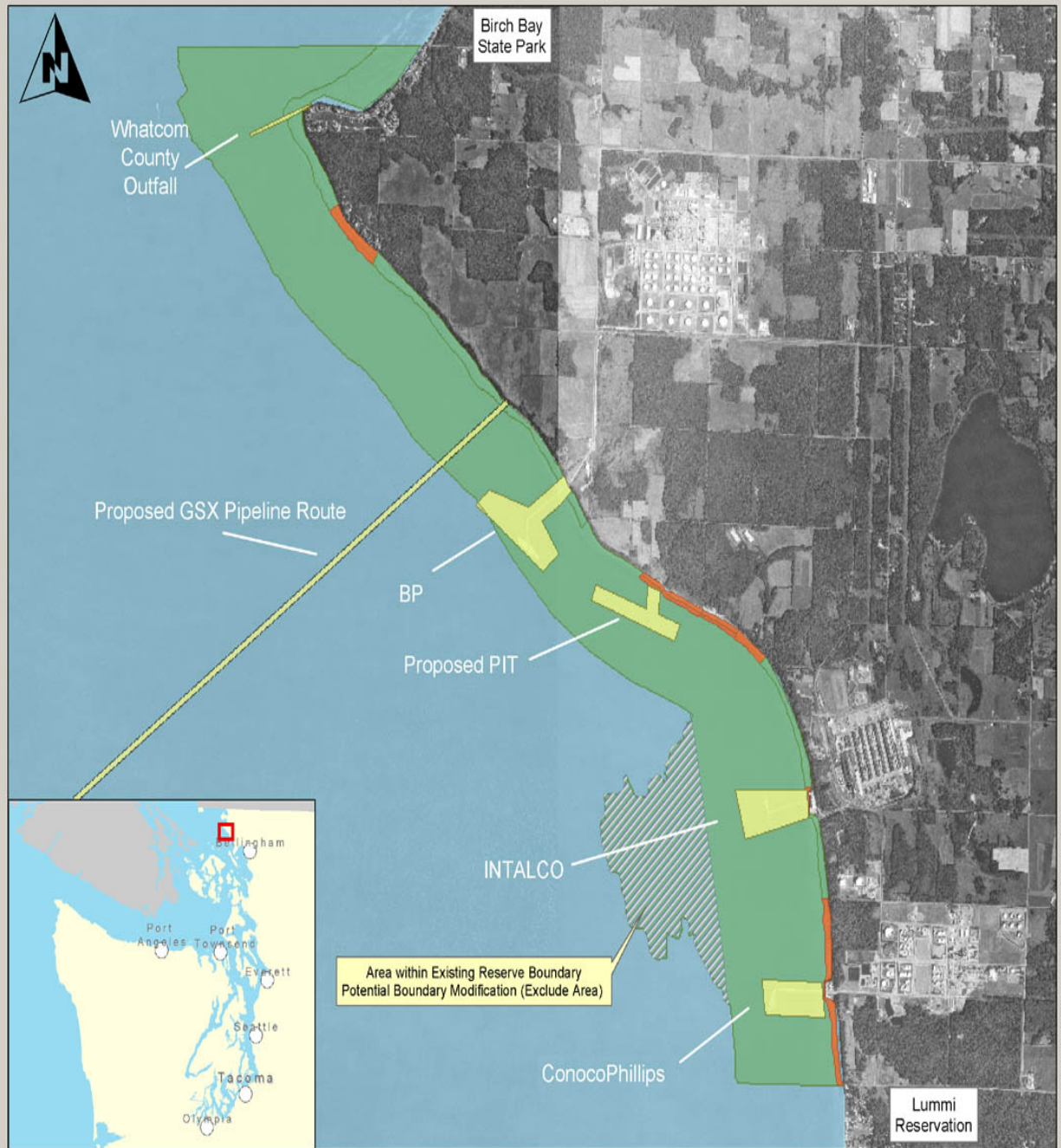
The Technical Advisory Committee (Committee) unanimously recommended managing this site as an Environmental Aquatic Reserve.

- In developing their recommendation, the Committee recognized Cherry Point as an extraordinary stretch of shoreline with excellent potential to maintain the relatively undeveloped character of the area.
- The herring spawning in the area was recognized as a unique biological feature to Puget Sound and its importance to the ecosystem was emphasized.
- It was recognized that aquatic diversity along this reach is very high with cobble intertidal habitat, large rocks and boulders, and kelp just offshore. Additionally, the deep area close to shore and the steep gradient of the intertidal along this reach could be important to marine diversity.
- The Committee noted that, while initially disturbing, industrial development associated with the piers appears to be compatible with aquatic reserve status and noted the opportunity to facilitate multiple-uses as an example where commercial activities and environmental resources can co-exist. It was noted that efforts should be undertaken to limit impacts associated with the piers and industries including limiting pilings, removing fill in the intertidal and restoring/maintaining the natural character of the shorelines.
- The Committee noted the expanding threat posed by residential development along the northern and southern boundaries of the reserve.

#### Boundaries

- The Committee voiced strong support for maintaining the north and south boundaries of the existing reserve area. It was noted that there would be increasing threats in the vicinity of Point Whitehorn to the north associated with residential development. Additionally, it was noted that the existing northern boundary abuts Birch Bay State Park and cooperative management with the park could provide protection for a larger portion of the herring spawning area and marine bird aggregation areas.
- The Committee was less certain regarding the offshore boundary of this site. The boundary of the reserve is generally a half-mile offshore, with the exception of a shallow area offshore of the Intalco dock that is included because it is less than 70-feet in depth. At first, some Committee members were uncertain as to whether the area beyond the half-mile offshore of the Intalco dock should be included. The Committee ultimately agreed that the boundary should include the entire photic zone and reflect the original boundaries. All TAC members suggested they would support either a boundary that maintains a half-mile buffer offshore or a boundary that included the entire photic zone.

# Cherry Point State Aquatic Reserve



WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF  
**Natural Resources**  
Aquatic Resources Division

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- State withdrawn area
- Existing encumbrances
- Tidelands in other ownership